

Statement of Juliette M. Engel, MD
Director, MiraMed Institute, Moscow
Director of International Relations for The Angel Coalition, Moscow

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Anna was a pretty, blond 25 year old Russian woman who had trained to be a exhibition ballroom dancer in her native town. Two years ago, she was recruited to be a dancer in Germany by answering an ad in a Russian newspaper. She was transported to Germany through Poland by bus where she was taken to an apartment, locked in a room and told that she would be working as a prostitute. There was another Russian girl in the apartment who had been horribly beaten for having resisted forced prostitution. Anna was terrified and she initially agreed to work for the German pimps - but after being repeatedly raped by over 20 male “clients” during her first day, she refused to cooperate any further. She was beaten with a metal pipe for resisting. Both of her arms were broken before she was systematically raped by the pimps.

The German government has made the highly controversial decision in the eyes of human rights activists throughout Russia and the world to act as an official “pimp” for the 2006 World Cup – anticipating millions of dollars in revenues from the exploitation of women’s bodies and souls by tens of thousands of male football fans notorious for their drunkenness and violence.

In Russia, we are already seeing the rise in trafficking recruitment activity. The Angel Coalition Trafficking Victim Assistance Center has received over 500 calls in the past few months from young women and their concerned families about various offers to work as waitresses, hostesses, advertising models, cooks and cleaning personnel at the World Cup. The fact that expenses for travel and housing in Germany will be deducted from the women’s earnings as well as the fact that the jobs are offered without work permits are clear indicators that the activity going on before our eyes is trafficking of Russian women and girls to serve in the World Cup brothels.

In fact, we are seeing an effect of the market principles of supply and demand in operation. There are not enough “legal prostitutes” in Germany to meet the sexual demands of the anticipated mobs of sex-seeking men or to fill the beds of the mega-brothels condoned by the German government. Unfortunately, pimps do not have to look too far to find a supply of tens of thousands of desperate women in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union who still believe the western media hype of a glorious life just across the border or women who have no choice but to try and make money in any way that they can to provide for their families and their children.

How are they recruited and transported? Recruitment is easy. Recruiters are often Russian crime groups posing as legitimate businesses and protected by Russian politicians who own nightclubs and brothels in Germany. Once recruited, women are transported through the same extensive network of smugglers that transport drugs and guns throughout the Former Soviet Union and into Western Europe. Of 29 calls to the

toll-free helpline of the Angel Coalition Trafficking Victim Assistance Center in Moscow in 2005 from trafficking victims in Germany, 17 revealed the existence of separate but equally well-developed criminal networks actively operating between Russia and Germany.

Germany is a primary destination country for Russian women trafficked for prostitution even without the increased recruiting for the World Cup. In 2001 the German Federal Criminal Police provided the alarming data that 27.5% of women trafficked to Germany were from the Commonwealth of Independent States. The UN estimated in 2004 that 15,000 Russian and East European women worked as illegal prostitutes in the city of Berlin alone and that Russian women constitute the third largest group of women annually trafficked into Germany. Europol figures confirm Germany as one of the four main receiving countries for Russian women.

Sadly, in countries like Germany where governments have opted to turn the exploitation of women's bodies into a source of gross national product, it is in their best interests to promote an image of prostitutes as confident professionals enjoying their work. But we know first hand the effects that systematic rape, violence and humiliation will have on thousands Russian women and girls who will be forced into prostitution for the profit of organized crime and the German government.

Fortunately for our Anna, the police were informed of the screams coming from the apartment and Anna was rescued during a police raid and sent back to Russia. A German NGO informed the Angel Coalition Trafficking Victim Assistance Center of her imminent arrival and she was met at the airport and taken to an NGO shelter where she remains today. Her arms will have to be re-broken and her hands will never function normally. She will never dance again but she is alive.

Germany's policy of legalized prostitution and tolerance of trafficking has lead to the most flagrant abuse of women for profit by a Western European government. The upcoming World Cup is a human rights disaster in the making - a crisis which is already drawing global attention to the human rights position of Germany as a nation, its stance on women and gender and its relations with one of its major trading partner nations, The Russian Federation.

I speak for the 65 member NGOs of the Angel Coalition when I call upon the German government to close the "mega-brothels" and the "performances boxes" and turn the focus of the World Cup activities to football instead of legalized violence against women. If Germany proceeds on the current path, the world will not remember the excitement of the sport of football so much as the legalized rape and degradation of trafficked women.

Then the German government should look further into reversing the legislation which brought such a human rights calamity onto German soil and repeal legalized prostitution in Germany.